

# THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OFFICERS OF THE

# CHICAGO REFORM SCHOOL

TO THE

BOARD OF GUARDIANS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1858.

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CHICAGO:

DAILY DEMOCRAT STEAM PRESS, 45 LA SALLE ST.

1858.



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## OFFICERS.

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### BOARD OF GUARDIANS,

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## OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

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SUPERINTENDENT,

REV. D. B. NICHOLS.

PHYSICIAN,

JOSEPH P. ROSS.

TEACHER,

P. ATKINSON.

FARMER,

JOHN WHEELER.

OVERSEER OF THE SHOE SHOP,

R. R. CLARKSON.

OVERSEER OF TAILORS' SHOP,

HENRY TIMKEE.

STEWARD,

D. F. BEAN.

WATCHMAN,

JOHN MCKAY.





## GUARDIANS' REPORT.

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*To the Hon. the Mayor and Aldermen, constituting the Common Council of the City of Chicago.*

The Board of Guardians of the Reform School herewith respectfully lay before your honorable body the reports of the Superintendent, the School Teacher, and the Physician of the Reform School, for the year ending with the first of the present month of October.

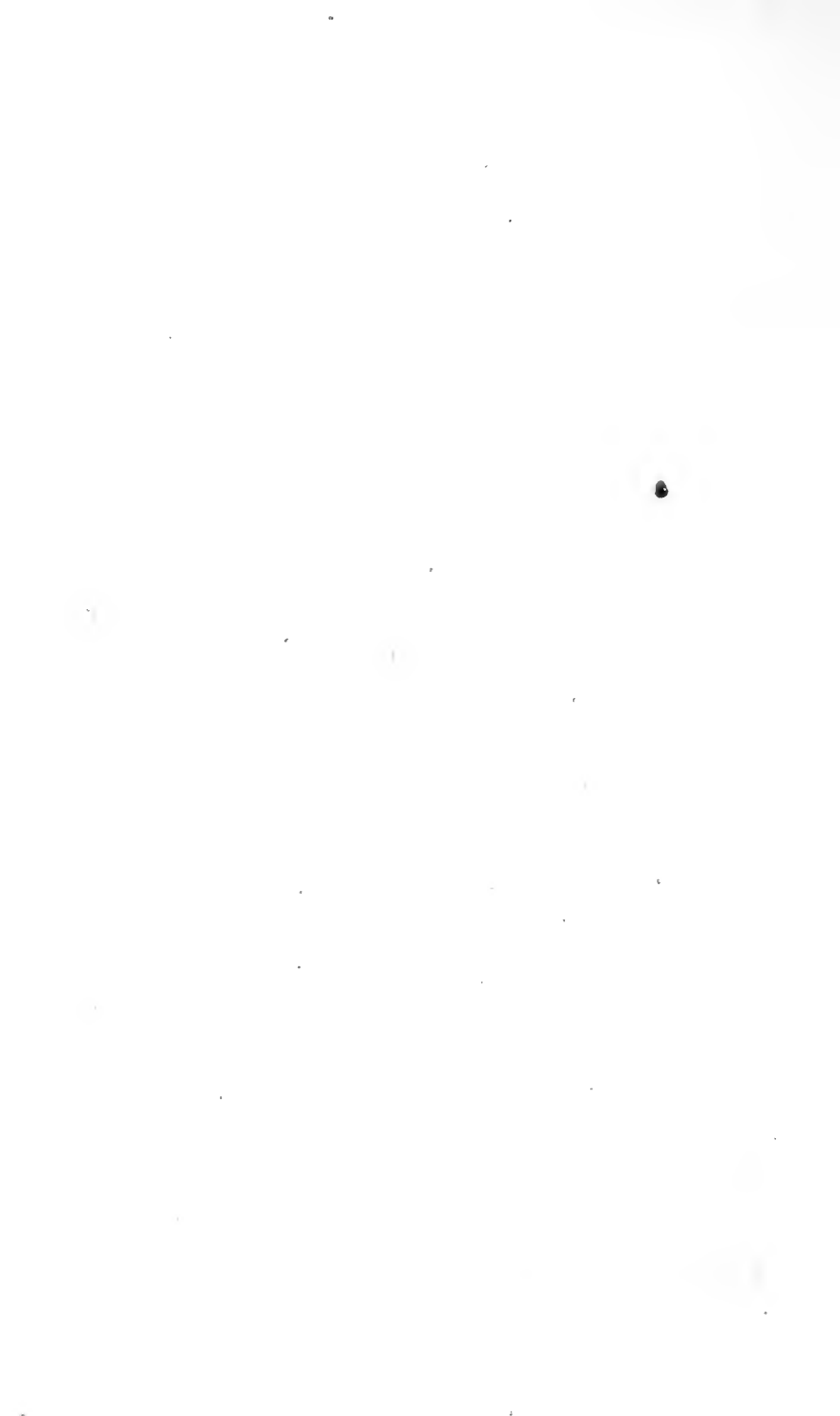
In addition to the valuable tables of statistics setting forth all the matters and things in connection with the conduct of the Institution, the Superintendent, the Rev. D. B. NICHOLS, has favored the Board with some extended observations pertinent to the objects of the School. It is but justice to Mr. NICHOLS to say, that the Report, in all its particulars and suggestions, is entirely due to him. His labors have been manifold, and his success such as to convince the most skeptical of the importance and value of the School.

The rapid growth of the School, in point of numbers, necessitates of course a largely increased expenditure. Whilst the Board strive to keep down the expense, and Mr. NICHOLS economizes in every possible way, still the aggregate of the year's expenditure is large, and with the growth of the Institution must gradually increase. In this view the Board respectfully suggest, that inasmuch as this, like all the other State charities, ought to be supplied by the State at large, it is a proper matter of consideration, whether the City Government will not make some effort at the approaching Session of the State Legislature to induce the State to establish a States Institution, which, while it will obviate the necessity of our City School, will extend to the State at large the priceless benefits of a Reform School.

All which is respectfully submitted.

MARK SKINNER,  
*President.*

J. H. GRAY, *Secretary.*



# THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# CHICAGO REFORM SCHOOL.

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*To the Board of Guardians of the Chicago Reform School,  
the Superintendent makes his Third Annual Report.*

GENTLEMEN: I herein present for your consideration such facts, arranged in tabular form, and deductions drawn therefrom, as will give you information in relation to our school at the present time, as regards the state of its finances, previous condition of its inmates, prior to their commitment here, the REAL cause of delinquency, the means used by us to reform the wayward, and some tokens of success which have been indicated in the progress of our labors. Some of these tables may strike you as novel, yet, with all their novelty, I cannot but hope that the information which they contain is that which will be serviceable to the public generally, enabling them to prevent the recurrence of crime, and materially aiding others in increasing efforts to reclaim those who have been seduced from the paths of virtue.

TABLE I.

Shows the admissions and discharges during the year ending September 30th, 1858.

Number in the School at the commencement of the year, ..	116
Number admitted during the year, .....	120
Number discharged because committed improperly, .....	7
Number returned as incorrigible, .....	2
Number whose term of sentence expired during the year, ..	26
Number who have escaped from the School, .....	10
Number who have been detained by parents, when visiting their homes on parole of honor, .....	2
Number who have been released on Writs of Habeas Corpus, .....	3
Number returned to friends as reformed, .....	19
Number now in School, .....	168
Number of deaths, .....	1

TABLE II.

Shows the admissions for each month in the year.

MONTHS.	NO.	MONTHS.	NO.
Admitted during the month of		Admitted during the month of	
October, .....	9	May, .....	12
November, .....	7	June, .....	10
December, .....	10	July, .....	14
January, .....	11	August, .....	8
February, .....	8	September, .....	15
March, .....	6		
April, .....	10	Total Number, .....	120

TABLE III.

Shows the crimes for which the inmates were sent to the School.

CRIME.	NO.
Number committed for Larceny, .....	41
Without proper parental care, .....	29
Uncontrollable, .....	18
Vagrancy, .....	18
Fighting, .....	5
Robbery, .....	3
Drunkenness, .....	4
Street Riot, .....	1
Passing Counterfeit Money, .....	1
Total, .....	120

TABLE IV.

Shows the Nativity of the inmates.

INMATES BORN IN THE UNITED STATES.		INMATES BORN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	
State of Illinois, .....	12	Ireland, .....	47
“ Pennsylvania, ....	1	Germany, .....	14
“ New York, .....	19	England, .....	6
“ Ohio, .....	4	Canada, .....	2
“ Massachusetts, ...	2	Scotland, .....	2
“ Wisconsin, .....	2	Norway, .....	2
“ Michigan, .....	1	Belgium, .....	1
“ Missouri, .....	2	Prince Edward's Island, .	1
	—	Prussia, .....	1
Total American Inmates, 43		Nova Scotia, .....	1
		Total Foreign Inmates, ...	77
		Total American Inmates, ..	43
		Total, .....	120

TABLE V.

Shows the Nativity of the Parents of the Inmates.

PARENTAGE.		PARENTAGE.	
Irish, .....	64	Prussian, .....	2
German, .....	17	French, .....	4
English, .....	9	Belgian, .....	1
Norwegian, .....	4	Welch, .....	1
Canadian, .....	1		
American, .....	11	Total, .....	120
Scotch, .....	6		

TABLE VI.

Shows the ages of the Inmates when committed.

NUMBER.	YEARS.	NUMBER.	YEARS.
One, .....	5	Nineteen, .....	12
One, .....	6	Seventeen, .....	13
Two, .....	7	Fifteen, .....	14
Four, .....	8	Ten, .....	15
Seven, .....	9	Ten, .....	16
Seventeen, .....	10	Five, .....	17
Eleven, .....	11	One, .....	18

TABLE VII.

Shows the occupation of the Parents.

OCCUPATION.	NO.	OCCUPATION.	NO.
Carpenters, .....	10	Painters, .....	1
Tailors, .....	5	Ship Carpenters, .....	1
Shoemakers, .....	5	School Teachers, .....	1
Farmers, .....	5	Weavers, .....	2
Saloon Keepers, .....	5	Cooks, .....	1
Captains of Canal Boats, ..	1	Bricklayers, .....	2
Blacksmiths, .....	3	Butchers, .....	2
Laborers, .....	45	Coopers, .....	2
Hod Carriers, .....	2	Wheelwrights, .....	1
Milkmen, .....	2	Soldiers in the English	
Book Keepers, .....	1	Army, .....	1
Keepers of Junk Shops, ..	1	Whitewashers, .....	1
Waiters in Hotels, .....	1	Stone Masons, .....	6
Draymen, .....	3	Harness Makers, .....	1
Engineers, .....	1	Hatters, .....	1
Waiters on Steamboats, ..	1	Watchmen, .....	1
Bakers, .....	1	Sa ors, .....	1
Railroad Men, .....	2		
Marble Cutters, .....	1	Total, .....	120

TABLE VIII.

Shows the moral condition of the homes of the Inmates, previous to their commitment.

Number of families included in this table,.....	299
Number of inmates who had near relatives convicted of crime,.....	55
Number of families where both the parents were drunken,...	60
Number where the father was drunken,.....	74
Number where the mother was drunken,.....	15
Number of inmates who had female relatives that were not virtuous,.....	40
Number of fathers who could neither read nor write,.....	35
Number who could not write, but could read,.....	21
Number of mothers who could neither read nor write,.....	55
Number of mothers who could read, and not write,.....	31
Number of inmates who had industrious fathers,.....	54
Number of inmates who had industrious mothers,.....	55
Number of families where the parents were poor,.....	193
Number of families where intemperance was the cause of poverty,.....	142

TABLE IX.

Shows the sanitary condition of the homes of the inmates.

Number of families included in this table,.....	299
Number of inmates who lived in shanties,.....	96
Number of inmates whose families occupied but one room,.	62
Number who occupied two rooms,.....	59
Number who occupied three rooms, .....	24
Number who had ample accommodations,.....	51
Number of inmates who lived in parts of the city where the streets were unpaved, filthy, and drainage imperfect,....	94
Number of families where from four to fourteen persons, regardless of sex or condition, lodged in the same room,....	51
Number of inmates poorly supplied with domestic comforts,	143

TABLE X.

Shows the social condition of the homes of the inmates, previous to their commitment.

Number of families included in this table,.....	299
Number who had lost both father and mother,.....	59
Number who had lost the father only,.....	77
Number who had lost the mother only,.....	70
Number of inmates who had lived either with stepfathers or stepmothers, .....	66
Number where the parents quarrelled, .....	115
Number of inmates who had bad homes,.....	183

TABLE XI.

Shows the moral condition of the inmates at the time of their committal to the School.

Number included in this table,.....	299
Number of truants from home and school, .....	209
Number who have been profane,.....	259
Number who have been untruthful,.....	279
Number who have been Sabbath breakers,.....	224
Number who have been accustomed to gambling,.....	136
Number accustomed to attend the theatre and circus,.....	170
Number accustomed to attend horse races, .....	89
Number who have "slept out,".....	180
Number of those who have set ten-pins in bowling-alleys,..	40
Number who have had no stated employment,.....	232
Number who have been in the habit of using intoxicating drinks,.....	120
Number who have been often intoxicated .....	46
Number who did not attend the Sabbath School,.....	131
Number guilty of petit larceny,.....	216
Number who have used tobacco,.....	120
Number who have been disobedient to their parents,.....	196
Number who have been in the habit of attending low dances	125
Number led into crime by bad associates,.....	63
Number induced to steal by the exposure of goods on the sidewalk and in show windows,.....	201

TABLE XII.

Shows the number of boys trusted during the past year, and gives some other facts relating to the confidential system.

Number of boys who have been to the city during the year, unattended, from one to five times,.....	43
Number who have been to the city alone from five to ten times,.....	7
Number who have been from ten to forty-five times,.....	8
Whole number trusted to go to the city alone during the past year,.....	58
Number of boys who have been gate keepers, .....	36
Number of boys who have ran away and come back voluntarily,.....	12
Number of gate keepers who have violated their trust,.....	0
Number of boys permitted outside the high fence, under the supervision of boys,.....	ALL THE SCHOOL.

## TABLE XIII.

Shows the Donations made to the School during the year, of minerals, books and newspapers.

Henry M. Smith, local editor of the "Press and Tribune," 20 vols. of books for Library.

Henry Smith, of Board of Guardians, several fine specimens of ore from Lake Superior.

Munson & Bradley, Booksellers, Chicago, 10 vols. of books, for School Library.

Griggs & Co., Booksellers, Chicago, 15 vols. of books for School Library, and 72 copies of Juvenile History.

Rufus Blanchard, Map Dealer, Chicago, two maps and one globe for School.

D. B. Whittier, Chicago, a valuable specimen of Mica, from N. H.

Am. Sunday School Union, through Mr. Tomlinson, Bookseller, Chicago, 6 picture cards.

C. C. Spring, Chicago, 2 doz. of gilt testaments and 2 vols. of books for Library.

Chas. G. Perkins, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1 box of gypsum, for cabinet.

Mr. Sherwood, Agent for Holbrook's School Apparatus, 1 globe.

A. G. Throop, Member of the Board of Guardians, 1 picture of Washington, in gilt frame, and several charts.

S. D. Ward, Member of the Board of Guardians, 150 Anniversary Hymns, No. 3.

H. O. Wilson, Marble Works, Chicago, fine specimens of marble for cabinet.

E. S. Warner, Chicago, 62 copies of Anniversary Hymns, No. 2.

Luther Holbrook, Chicago, 62 copies of Anniversary Hymns, No. 3.

William Wilkinson, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 1 vol. for School Library.

Rev. J. C. Burroughs, D. D., 1 vol. for School Library.

E. C. Townsend, Chicago, fine specimens of stalactite and cal. spar, from a cave in Southern Indiana.

Mr. E. B. Williams, Chicago, a beautiful flag for the boys' fort.

D. B. Cooke & Co., Booksellers, Chicago, 25 vols. of Library books.

Professor Sheldon, of Iowa College, a fine lot of Western shells.

A. Gibbs, pamphlets and magazines.



Periodicals and papers furnished to School gratuitously by the publishers.

## WEEKLIES.

New York Independent.	North Western Christian Ad-
“ Evangelist.	vocate, Chi.
Congregational Herald, Chi.	New Covenant, Chi.
North Western Home Journal,	Bow and Cloud, Chi.
Chi.	

## DAILIES.

Press and Tribune, Chicago.	Daily Democrat, Chicago.
Daily Times, Chicago.	Evening Journal, Chicago.
Daily Herald, Chicago.	

Papers furnished to the Reading Room by private individuals:

Puritan Recorder, Boston,	Oberlin Evangelist, Oberlin,
Mass.	Ohio.
Congregational Journal, Con-	Christian Press, Cincinnati,
cord, N. H.	Ohio.
Child's Paper, New York.	Day Spring, Boston, Mass.

## TABLE XIV.

Shows the amount of labor performed in the several departments of the School, for the year ending September 30th, 1858.

## TAILOR'S SHOP.

Jackets made.....	447
Pants made .....	559
Caps made .....	144
Suspenders, pairs of .....	456

## SEAMSTRESS' ROOM.

Shirts made.....	447
Comfortables.....	109
Aprons.....	38
Sheets.....	342
Pillow Slips.....	313
Bed Ticks.....	14
Towels.....	179
Pillow Ticks.....	79
Bed Spreads.....	151
Iron Holders.....	11
Handkerchiefs .....	10
Collars.....	219
Pairs of Socks, knit.....	28½
Cravats .....	175
Articles repaired.....	3918

## SHOE SHOP.

Number of pairs boys'	
shoes made.....	577
Number of pairs men's	
shoes made.....	78
Number of pairs women's	
shoes made.....	67
Number of pairs of boots	
made.....	3
Number of pieces repaired	290

## PRODUCTS OF GARDEN AND FARM.

Tons of Hay cut.....	6
Bushels of Potatoes raised	180
“ Carrots “	5
“ Beets “	6
“ Beans “	5
Pumpkins and Squashes ..	429
Bushels of Tomatoes ....	5
WASHING AND IRONING ROOMS.	
Number of pieces washed	
and ironed during the	
year .....	43,770

## CARPENTERS' SHOP.

A shoe shop 24 by 40 has been erected and properly fitted up. A building 20 by 30, with two rooms divided into lodging rooms for the help, and a large room, which is used as a sewing and knitting room, for the small boys.

The hospital has also been enlarged to double its former capacity.

The introduction of water from the Lake rendered another addition to the first building necessary. This addition gave us a bath room, with a capacious bath tank and apparatus, where twenty-five boys can wash their hands in a pure running stream, at the same time. It gave us also an enlargement to our old kitchen of double its former dimensions. Upstairs it gave us an ironing room and recitation room.

All these rooms have been appropriately fitted up with shelves and benches.

We have also made material alterations in the appearance of the front yard, fitting it up with gravel walks, and changing the low grounds, from being the most unsightly, into the most attractive portions of the yard.

Boxes made for the boys' clothing.....	123
Feet of high fence built to enlarge the yard.....	463
Rods of fence built.....	62
Outhouses constructed during the year.....	3
Tables made for dining hall and other rooms.....	5
Number of shoe benches made.....	22

## TABLE XV.

Store inventory of the Chicago Reform School on the 30th of September, 1858.

30 pair of women's shoes, \$1.....	\$30 00
346 pair of men and boys' shoes, \$1 50.....	519 00
Shoemaker's tools and stock on hand.....	112 80
96 cloth caps.....	35 52
177 yards sheeps' grey, 50c.....	88 58
84½ yards blue satinett, 65c.....	94 77
323 yards denims, 16c.....	51 72
166 yards shirting, 9c.....	15 40
140 yards blue stripe, 15c.....	21 00
121 cloth jackets, \$3 50.....	423 50
70 sheeps' grey pants, \$2.....	140 00

40 shirts.....	50 00
Carpets.....	30 00
Sundry dry goods.....	68 22
Beds and bedding.....	625 99
Groceries and provisions.....	542 61
30 bushels beans, \$1 25.....	49 00
3 barrels oil.....	124 00
78 boxes soap, 5,070 lbs. 6½c.....	329 55
169 bushels potatoes, 40c.....	67 60
429 pumpkins and squashes, 5c.....	21 45
6 tons hay.....	30 00
School furniture and school books.....	150 00
Record books for office.....	16 00
Drugs and medicine.....	30 00
10 stoves and 2 cauldrons.....	194 00
Carpenters' tools.....	25 00
3 hogs.....	35 00
2 cows.....	70 00
Poultry.....	14 50
Agricultural implements.....	36 26
	<hr/>
	\$3,953 97
Due on City Bridewell account for 78 pair shoes.....	114 00
Due on account with Alms House of Cook County, for 52 pairs of shoes.....	64 00
	<hr/>
	\$4 131 97

TABLE XVI.

Shows the expenditure of the School for the year ending September 30th, 1858.

1,019½ yards Satinett. 639 17	1 chest tea..... 32 64
313½ yards sheeps grey 156 76	Fine meal..... 471 51
Other dry goods.....1002 53	Oil..... 304 65
Shoes..... 226 00	Soap..... 535 91
Hats and caps..... 81 45	Butter..... 87 67
Cap trimmings..... 20 85	Codfish..... 100 94
273 barrels flour.....1103 00	Other groceries..... 138 28
6155 lbs meal..... 75 88	Buckwheat flour..... 11 75
5171 lbs rue..... 291 15	Crockery..... 21 57
1295½ gals. molasses.. 477 96	Furniture..... 481 64
14 barrels pork..... 190 28	Printing..... 48 00
9 barrels salt..... 15 75	Livery and Burial Ex-
6½ doz. brooms..... 13 90	penses..... 25 00
108 bushels beans.... 108 23	Medicine..... 127 14
182 bushels potatoes.. 65 30	Medical attendance... 291 25
2 bags coffee..... 34 81	
4 barrels sugar..... 81 71	
	<hr/>
	2677 86

Brought forward.....	2677 86	Brought forward....	14,263 71
Seeds and farm uten-		Improvements deduct	2741 88
sils.....	35 30		
Books and Stationery	111 41		11,521 83
Leather and findings..	749 51	Amount of Inventory	
Improvements.....	2741 88	in store.....	4131 97
Labor .....	3232 40		
Railroad fares.....	110 55		7389 86
		Add Supt's Salary ...	1000 00
	14,271 71		
Amount paid	8 00		8389 86
	14,263 71		

The foregoing tables have been prepared with great care, and as to accuracy may be regarded as reliable.

The facts contained in tables 9, 10 and 11, go back to the opening of our school, and include all the boys we have received since its commencement.

It is not necessary for me to bespeak attention to the facts embodied in this report. Facts so pregnant with meaning speak for themselves, carrying with them their own convincing power. Society owes it to her own preservation that facts of such fearful magnitude should be carefully weighed, and their bearings accurately marked.

As regards juvenile crime, the absorbing questions of the day are:—How shall juvenile crime be staid? How can the juvenile criminal be restored to society, and be saved to himself and his God?

Many able writers are now endeavoring to solve these problems. Side by side stands the peer of the realm with the private citizen. Shoulder to shoulder they battle with crime; this speaks well for the philanthropy of the age, and betokens a good time coming.

At a recent Convention held in Birmingham, England, questions of the most vital importance to society were discussed; such as those relating to the *Improvement of Criminal Law*, *Effective Education*, *Sanitary Regulations*, *Reformatory Agency* and *Economic Science*. Enrolled as members of this Convention, we are cheered to see the names of such distinguished persons as Lords Brougham, Stanley, and Russell, and Sir John Parkington, members of the English parliament, with a

host of others, whose efforts in the cause of Philanthropy and Educational Reform, are known throughout the civilized world.

This convention met to consider a known evil, to avert a threatened danger, to prescribe a remedy for a most virulent disease, and throw up a barrier to check, if possible, the disastrous flow of the wave of youthful crime.

The multiplied means now used to search out the cause of crime, either to prevent its future recurrence, or where a criminal life has been followed, to use those appliances which shall most speedily restore the criminal to society, indicate the importance which the public mind attaches to this subject.

To say that this boy or that girl was yesterday locked up in the cell of a prison, as an outlaw against the good order of society, is not enough; the public make a demand as to the cause of the delinquency. What has procured their ruin? What was the rock of offence, over which they stumbled down the awful precipice of vice? It is spoken of the Patriarch of Uz, in commendation of his philanthropy, that the cause he knew not he searched out. Every event has its adequate cause.

Is not the judgment we pass upon the conduct of the youthful delinquent often unnecessarily severe? Are we not apt to forget the circumstances which have encircled the early life of the young criminal? We are accustomed to confine our point of observation wholly to the infraction made upon wholesome laws, without considering the school of vice in which the child has been trained. We need to change our stand point in regard to the youthful criminal. We have too long permitted our eyes to rest upon the schemes of villainy and wretchedness. We have confined our point of observation to his crimes and vices so long that our sympathies refuse to flow out towards him in his wretchedness, and morally defenceless condition. That we ought to love him is the judgment of reason; but our feelings are so set against crime and the criminal, that we turn away with loathing from the wretched victim of vice and crime.

Let us take a view of the same picture from a different stand point. We need both of these views if we would arrive at a truthful conclusion. One observation explains the other: one gives the cause, the other the effect.

Leave, then, the youthful delinquent clothed in his rags of

shame, with the marks of vice written upon the visage of the soul, and go with me but a short remove from mansions of wealth, palaces of the great, studios of the learned, and the abodes of domestic peace and tranquility. But a few blocks distant, you will find a district peculiar to itself. You need the presence of no guide to inform you when you arrive at its limits. Although this section of the city is not separated from other parts, by material barriers, by walls of brick or stone, yet its boundaries are as easily traceable as if enclosed by material walls. A class live within these boundaries which characterizes the region. But what of this region, and what of its inhabitants? We answer, here is the home of that outcast of society, who has come to be regarded as an enemy of good order by his utter disregard of the rights of property. In one of these shanties his parents reside. You are now on the ground where the first lessons of wrongdoing were taken. The petty annoyance you suffered from oft repeated acts of juvenile pilfering was the effect of that which you now behold as the cause. With the rills and streams of crime you have for a long time been familiar, you now can see the fountain from which these rills and streams are supplied.

The tenements of the district all appear to be cast in the same mould. Oftentimes but one room answers all the purposes of the household. In this room the inmates sleep, eat and receive their friends. This room is used as a laundry, hospital and dead-house, as occasion may require.

A boy from the aforementioned district, now a member of our school, belonged to a family which numbered in all thirteen persons, seven of whom were males. Some of the members were *boarders* in the family. They all lived, or *herded* in the single room of a shanty.

Now, who cannot see that the promiscuous grouping together of persons of both sexes in common lodging-rooms must be attended with consequences the most deleterious, morally and physically. Regions like these prove, in fact, to be the hot-beds of crime. From these districts, plants of vice, rank and destructive, are continually being removed to other districts.

The crowding together in a common room of so many human beings, regardless of sex, must not only be pernicious in its effects upon morality, but equally destructive to health and life.

In poorly ventilated tenements, swarming with life, crowded together in some filthy corner of the city, separated only by narrow, unpaved streets, or filthy alleys, live the old and young, married and single, sick and well. Here malignant fevers rage, and contagious diseases abound. The wretched inhabitants are forced to breathe the air poisoned by stagnant pools and offensive sewers, which are continually sapping the powers of life. In tenements and districts like these, the juvenile delinquent has his home. Who will be surprised, in view of these facts, that our City Police are continually arresting boys who have chosen their lodgings under bridges, in alleys, stables and lumber yards, in preference to their own homes? In seeking the exchange, the boy but obeys the law of his social and physical nature, choosing rather to lodge under the dome of heaven, where he can have plenty of pure air to breathe, than to inhale the noxious vapors of his own home.

A little boy, who had not seen his tenth summer, had chosen his lodgings under Wells Street Bridge in this city; his extreme destitution called forth the warmest sympathies from all who heard his tale of woe. He had a home, had a father and mother, brothers and sisters, who lived in poverty the most squalid. But he preferred a home under a bridge, with long nights of weariness, to the home where he had formerly been sheltered.

But if we confine our view to the sanitary regulations of the districts, we shall fail to see the darkest shades of this picture. Let us now view their inhabitants. We have seen the dwellings of this region. Let us now take a view of their occupants.

Numbers of these parents can neither read nor write. What encouragement, then, can the children of such parents have to go to school? Is it wonderful that they become truants? Parents who have little or no education are not likely to appreciate the importance of a daily attendance upon the privileges of school?

The demand for juvenile labor in manufacturing districts has been a temptation for parents to withdraw their children from school and put them to work. Parents whose blind cupidity would lead them to avail themselves of the labor of their children to aid them in doing what they ought to do themselves, would not be likely to care for the educational interests of their children.

Applications to your body, for the release of inmates, have urged this reason more than all others, the need of the children's help to support their families. Some have urged that this help was required to keep them from the alms-house.

The employment of these children, previous to their commitment here, had been various. Some had gathered wood from docks and lumber yards; some were engaged in rag-picking. And so soon as these boys were committed to our school, the parents, if their own statements could be credited, were suddenly reduced to the greatest extremities in the support of their families.

Some of the parents have not only been possessed of a blind cupidity thus by availing themselves of their children's labor, have not only been willing to imperil the future prospects of the child, and jeopardize the interests of society, to gratify selfish ends, but in some cases have been wickedly content to eat the bread and drink the drink of idleness at the expense of their children.

Truancy from school has become an alarming evil. It is time that its true cause were searched out. As a corrective agency for the evils of truancy, some cities have adopted wise and judicious regulations, authorizing truant officers to arrest children found in the streets and refusing to avail themselves of school privileges. The regulations provide for the education of all, requiring parents either to educate their own children, or else resign them to society, which will make the necessary provisions for their education.

In order to a truthful exhibit, there is still a darker hue to our picture, which we wish to furnish you. We have viewed the families of these districts, from which criminals are supplied, in their physical and intellectual relations to society, while we have scarcely given a glance at their moral condition.

We now come to speak of the homes of these unfortunate ones, as regards their moral training. The facts which are the basis of this report, upon this subject, are contained in Table 8. This table speaks for itself. The first item in this table gives the number of inmates whose near relatives had been convicted of crime. One boy, who is now a member of our school, has a brother in the State Prison, and another brother who is awaiting his trial in jail for murder, another brother has been in the City



Bridewell. Another boy, who was sent to us for horse-stealing, had a father imprisoned for the same offense. Another member of our school had a father in State Prison, sentenced during the period of his natural life, for the crime of murder.

- Parents who have been outlaws against the good order of society would not be likely to train up their children in paths of honesty and virtue. As we might naturally conclude, the children of such parents are growing up to curse the world—to fill our jails and prisons. Crime has thus been perpetuated from father to son, as by hereditary descent. Cases of hereditary crime are those which are most difficult to cure.

Passing this topic by, let me turn your attention to another most fruitful cause of evil, a cause which is yearly growing more destructive in its effects. I refer to the large number of families who are annually ruined by the intoxicating cup. For a family of children to be cursed with a drunken father is enough to blight all their fair prospects for the future—enough to dampen every youthful aspiration to rise in the world. What wretchedness could fall on the family circle more to be dreaded than to have a father, after spending the day and larger portion of the night at drinking saloons, come home to curse and destroy those to whom he has pledged his sacred honor to bless and save. Yet, terrible as the calamity is to be cursed with a drunken father, children have been known courageously to rise superior to a difficulty so insurmountable. Children have been saved from ruin whose father had made himself a curse to the world by intoxicating drink, through the influence of an industrious and pious mother. Children, even though they struggled with the waves of adversity, contending at fearful odds, have been known manfully to breast up against wind and tide so long as words of kindness and sobriety fell from a mother's lips. But what direful calamity from Pandemonium's box could equal the wretchedness and ruin which falls upon that family where both father and mother drink of the accursed beverage? Better far for such children if they had been orphans from infancy. Better they had died in infancy, so that they had never looked on their wretchedness. What a legacy of shame, reproach and scorn, a drunken parent transmits to his children! How many bright and sunny prospects have gone down behind the dark clouds of despair

because of the drunkard's home? Were it not for this vice, most of the families would be able to surround themselves with the comforts and conveniences of life. Were it not for this fell destroyer, habits of industry, thrift and cleanliness would be established; health and happiness would enter those dwellings where now idleness, prodigality, disease and misery abound. Had it not been for this vice, these parents might have lived to enjoy the society of their children. The drunkenness of the parents has driven many of these children forth from their own homes to be a scourge to mankind.

Another disruptive element to the peace of the family circle, has been the second marriages of some of the parents of the boys. Hard usage of step-parents has driven many a child from his home, and when thus removed from parental restraint, where it has been exercised, he has fallen an easy prey to temptation.

Orphanage is found to be another cause of juvenile delinquency. Criminals are made from orphan children by their falling in with hard masters, whose want of sympathy in their youthful plans and aims has induced them to seek companionship abroad, and thus falling in with vicious companions they have been easily led into crime; if strangers had kindly taken care of them, and trained them properly, they might have been saved. How few masters, even among the professed disciples of Christ, seem to understand the secret of training orphan children. How few the cases where the *lonely one* is made, by the sympathy of strangers, to forget his loneliness, and to realize that he has yet a home. Many men seem to feel their obligation towards the orphan ceases when he is supplied with food and clothing, a comfortable bed and a good school; but you may be ever so bountiful in your provisions for the comforts of life, and yet if you end here, you will fail to draw the orphan child to yourself. What the orphan needs is *sympathy*. Give him kind words and kind looks. Let him see *kind actions* and he will not complain of *coarse fare*. This is in accordance with the wise man of old, for he says, "He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length."

We have been enabled to view the home of the delinquent, and now, in conclusion, on this subject, let me ask if there is not in these homes an adequate cause for the terrible effects which

we have been considering? Can we expect anything else than vice and crime to flow from a fountain so impure? So long as bad homes exist, so long we may expect vicious and criminal children.

Parents who make themselves poor and wretched by drink, who are dishonest, who are daily distracted by family quarrels; who are indolent and filthy, cannot expect to elevate their children to a higher position than that which they occupy themselves. Thus, their children grow up to fill our alms-houses and prisons. What else could be expected? No sane man certainly could expect to bring a clean thing out of an unclean.

We have thus beheld the cause of all this disorder which is continually operating to fill the world with wretchedness and crime.

Let us now turn and view the class to be reformed. This class, as you will see by the foregoing tables, are for the most part educated in the streets; most of them are truants from school; many have slept out in barns, stables, and in lumber yards, or wherever the night has overtaken them.

As a class, when they come to us, they are indolent, averse to settled employment, delighting in dirt. To kindness they are most universally strangers. At first we find it exceedingly difficult to make the boy believe that we are really his friends. He is at first shy of our approaches, and we can read it in his eyes that he feels as if we had some advantage to reap from him. That our pretended kindness was only a thing of time. That so soon as we had served our own selfish ends he would have nothing to expect, but such treatment as had ever fallen to his lot. We find that city boys are much sharper and readier than boys of the same age from the rural districts. Numberless objects exist in the city to develop the mind and moral appetites, which do not exist in the country. There is one characteristic difference between the class of boys we receive into our school and the boys of the world generally, and that is their generosity. Out of the 299 boys who have been committed to our school since its opening, we do not remember to have seen but four *stingy* boys in the whole number. This is undoubtedly the reason why this class have such a powerful influence for evil over boys who chance to come under their control.

In addition to the bad homes in which these boys have been trained, there exists certain temptations to crime, which is in the power of law-makers to remedy. You will see by Table XI. that 201 boys have been induced to steal by the exposure of goods on the sidewalk or in show windows. These boys, in the most of the cases, would not have been thieves if such temptations had not been thrown in their way. A boy, for example, passes a fruit store and sees every variety of tempting fruit within his reach, he has no money, he desires to possess one of the apples or pears, as the case may be, he sees the shop keeper engaged with a customer, his face is turned from him; the boy is seized with a sudden impulse to possess himself of the plunder, he does so, and walks away without being detected. This emboldens him to renew the game, and upon this he practices until he has become expert in his schemes of villainy.

In England a law exists against shop keepers exposing their goods. In American cities the sidewalks are often crowded with various devices, signs, models and specimens of the ware the shop keeper has for sale. If some law should oblige the shop keeper to keep his articles, which he has for sale, inside his store, then we might hope that fewer candidates would be furnished for the State Prison. Cases of the kind above referred to, have occurred under my own observation. A young man who was a member of our school, the first year we opened, is now in Alton State Prison, if his time is not now expired, for yielding to temptation by the exposure of goods. At one time I knew him to be shut up in our jail for weeks, for taking a pair of pants which were exposed outside the door of a merchant tailor's shop in this city. This boy would on no account have gone inside to steal, but his thieving was all performed upon such articles as were unnecessarily exposed by the shop keepers.

What I have said upon this delicate topic has been said with a view of lessening the number of juvenile criminals, and not to infringe on the rights of those who have wares to sell. Men who would wish to do good, and save the young from ruin, will, no doubt, see the justness of these remarks.

Another temptation for boys to commit crime, is the knowledge of the fact that there are certain places where they can dispose of these stolen articles, and yet not be betrayed. Shops of this kind

exist in every city, where the object is to buy stolen articles of juvenile thieves at a reduced price; by this occupation some men have their living.

A man not long since began with a very small capital, but his business gradually improved until he was equal with his neighbors. When he had arisen to circumstances of comfort and respectability, a boy who had often been in jail, and afterwards was a member of our school, called upon him for a favor, but he did not know him. "Ah," said the boy to me, "he forgets how many articles we stole for him when he first started in business; we set him up, we boys started him, if it had not been for us he would now be where we found him."

We now come to speak of the means of reformation. We have seen the circumstances under which these boys have been trained, the temptations to which they have been exposed. We have taken a brief survey of the class to be reformed, and now we are prepared understandingly to suggest the kind of appliances which may be used successfully in their reformation. Wherever a tendency to any peculiar vice has heretofore manifested itself, to this tendency should be opposed a vigorous corrective agency, adapted to the individual case of the delinquent. Where, formerly, the most successful onset has been made to reduce the soul to the dominion of vice, *there* a double guard should be stationed. Thus, an idle life would suggest as a remedy, *occupation*. A large majority of the inmates of our school, prior to their commitment here, were accustomed to an idle life; making all reasonable allowance for those who were not able to get employment, we have yet remaining a very large class who were desirous of living in idleness. This class, if they had any occupation, followed that of hunting, fishing, or catching drift wood about the docks. Such wandering life they loved to lead, but were averse to any permanent employment.

Industrial training is all important as a means of reformation of the wayward. This kind of training should embrace two objects: *one* to give the boy habits of industry, the *other* to develop the power of the child.

The good effects of industrial training are lost where either of these two objects are disregarded. A boy, for example, should be permitted, yea, *encouraged* to follow the kind of labor his

natural taste and inclinations direct. It has been our custom, from the beginning of the school, to allow our boys the privilege of choosing the kind of labor they wished to follow. For the first three months of the boy's stay with us, we have found it necessary frequently to change his employment from one thing to another; after he has tried several kinds of manual exercise, he comes to see that labor is *work*, in whatever department he operates, and he is apt to settle down in the pursuit of some steady employment.

Of the different kinds of industrial pursuits which are the best calculated to develop the physical, intellectual and moral being, we should place that of agriculture first. The boys all love outdoor employment, and if we had the right quality of soil, and a large farm, we could better employ our boys in this way than in any other.

Mental training we would speak of as another agency by which the boy is to be reformed. Most of these boys, as you are aware, were truants from school before they came to us, the first thing to be done was to excite the activity of their minds, for without this excitement, you will have to contend with constant opposition, and accomplish nothing in the end. The distaste for books, which invariably exists in the minds of this class, must be overcome. The name of schools and books are *dreaded names* with such boys; but the school-room should be made attractive, where all will love to go. The want of the right kind of men to labor in Reform Schools, is a want which has been felt the world over; at least, so far as the influence of these kind of schools has extended.

I cannot refrain from quoting some remarks made before a select committee of the English Parliament, by M. D. Hill, Esq., Recorder of Birmingham, England, which are pertinent to this subject:—"Mere reading and writing," says he, "mere mental education of any kind, I consider to have a tendency against crime, as a general rule, but a rule subject to a great variety of exceptions; and looking at it as a partial restraint of crime, I hold it very cheap indeed. Now the great object to be attained is not so much to give instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, or any of the usual branches of what we are in the habit of calling education, as to reclaim these children, and turn them

from enemies into friends, and bring them back into the great brotherhood of man; therefore, it becomes necessary that the instruction which they receive shall be directed to that great object, rather than the mere mental or manual requirements."

Our main reliance, as a means of reformation, has been placed in moral training; we endeavor to educate the boys' consciences, and to lead them to consider the nature of moral actions, to understand the difference between right and wrong. This work of moral training is not confined to any particular hours of the day, but there is line upon line given, and precept is added to precept. We have sought to use the most common circumstances of life to inculcate the truth; the Sabbath has been devoted exclusively to the work of educating the moral faculties; I have addressed the school on each Sabbath morning during the year, except in a few instances. In the afternoon's exercises we are frequently assisted by friends from the city.

Last November we commenced the practice of reading to the boys after supper; these exercises have been continued, with hardly an interruption. During this time, the Superintendent of the school has read 9,280 pages of the instructive and substantial literature; these exercises have been attended with marked results; some of the boys have expressed the feeling at different times that they had rather go without supper than without the reading.

In our teachings we endeavor to lead these boys to rely upon themselves; we seldom, if ever, refer to their past lives; we encourage them to have faith in God, and confidence in themselves, and to fear nothing but wrong doing. We have been encouraged in seeing the gradual ascendancy which the law of right has gained over the mind. Each boy, in a short time, under the teachings he enjoys here, is taught to feel that the Great Creator made him to accomplish a high and noble purpose, that he has been commissioned to do that work which, if properly done, will carry peace and happiness to mankind, and redound with honor to his own soul.

Great prominence is given in our school to the idea that we are members of a common family. The Superintendent, his family, and the helpers, all take their meals with the boys in the common dining-hall; the boys are encouraged to freely commu-

nicate their little ills and griefs to the Superintendent, with the assurance that they will receive the sympathy which they desire, and have their wrongs redressed. The government of our school is eased upon the law of kindness; we try to bear all things, endure all things, and hope all things; we have learned to labor and to wait. I have no reason to complain of the conduct of my boys toward me; my own daughters treat me with no more affectionate regard; at all times my comfort is their study, and to lighten my burdens their care. During a portion of the past year my labor and anxiety for the welfare of the school wrought so powerfully upon my health that I feared that it would permanently fail; during this trying time, my boys did all they could to aid me, and I cannot but feel grateful to them for their kindness.

As I have been frequently written to respecting the system of government we have here adopted, I will now give a short account of my manner of conducting the school. The inmates of the school are divided into twelve tribes, each of which has a leader, who is called the chief of his tribe. These twelve chiefs look after the interests of their respective tribes, and report to me, at a weekly meeting which is held in my room, of anything noticeable in the conduct of the tribes. In these meetings every boy's name is called, and responded to by his chief in relation to the character of the boy. I take occasion in these weekly meetings with the chiefs to tell them with all freedom what I think wrong in their conduct. These meetings for council and admonition are not without their benefit. It is the duty of these chiefs to attend to the wants of their respective members, and see that they are supplied through the Superintendent of the School. They are to see that the members of their tribes are cleanly, orderly, and industrious. We have a general review day once a month, when each boy is closely inspected by the Superintendent. The chief who can show the best conditioned tribe is rewarded in two ways. First, he is entitled to the honor of being called for the coming month, the President of the chiefs, and a small, pecuniary reward is added. The system thus adopted gives me a most intimate acquaintance with the character of the whole school.

The fence around the main building remains as heretofore. I



rigidly adhere to my former practice in permitting the boys to carry the keys. During the past year I have never turned a gate key, nor do I concern myself about the gates, to see that they are properly secured at night. My gate-keepers, from the time the gates have been set up, have *all* been true to their honor. Not a single instance of departure from trustworthiness, as regards the gates, have I known during the past year.

I carry no keys myself except those which appropriately belong to my private apartments. The boy who has the superintendence of a department carries the keys of his particular charge. These officers obtain the keys at my room after the ringing of the morning bell, which I always ring myself, and they keep them until the bell rings for retiring; then they return them to me for the night. Perhaps it may be said I chose my best boys for these trustworthy stations. If this means that I chose those boys to fill places of trust, who are *now* trustworthy, this is true; but if it implies that I choose such boys to fill these stations who *were* trustworthy when they came to the school, it is *by no means true*. My present gate-keeper was committed for as grave a crime as any in our school, and since he came to us has twice ran away, but for the last eight months he has been a very good and trustworthy boy. I have taken my gate-keepers and officers generally from a similar class, from that class whose trustworthiness has grown up with them here.

Among the important helps we have in conducting the affairs of the school, I cannot omit that of our police arrangements. We have in the school, three police boys, who do nothing else than attend to what appropriately belongs to the police department. One of the boys is styled the Captain of the Police, another the Truant Officer, whose business it is to see that the boys are in school, the other is the Police boy of the Workshops, who sees that each boy is in his appropriate place of labor.

Our grades of character, with some unimportant variations, continue the same as reported last year. The grades are read over once in two weeks, upon the Sabbath; the school is seated in the dining-hall, in conformity to these grades of character; one table is exclusively appropriated to the Chiefs and Superintendents of the different departments; the Grade of Honor, the Second, Third and Fifth Classes have separate tables, and two tables are assigned to new comers.

We make a difference in the diet of some of the grades; the Chief's table is supplied with meat in the morning; the diet of the Sixth Class is bread and water, and they are required to stand to the wall with arms folded, while the other boys are eating. Extra articles of diet are from time to time allowed the Grade of Honor.

The Fifth Class are allowed *no play*.

No boy can go unattended to the city to see his friends, unless he is in the Grade of Honor.

Corporal punishments are prohibited. We have no lock-up. There is nothing in connection with the school which savors of *the prison*. After the boys have been with us a short time, they cease to regard the school as a prison.

The government by moral suasion is found to work well; it is perfectly surprising to see how little friction there is among the inmates; the spirit of love, forbearance and forgiveness seems to have permeated the entire mass.

As to the success of the school, I can say, that so far as I have had the opportunity to develop the system, it is all that the most sanguine could expect. The boys who have left us and gone to the country, without a single exception, are doing well. On the other hand, boys who have been returned to their friends in the city, have in some cases fallen in with their old companions, and again been led into criminal and vicious paths.

A young man, who was a member of our school for eight months, being committed by the Police Court for grand larceny, was, at the request of his former employer, taken into his service again as a clerk. He had full access to the money drawer, and had every facility to practice dishonesty. He was often tempted, but resisted manfully for 180 days. Then came a sweeping surge of temptation, and he yielded to its power and fell. I sought him out and tried to rally his sinking resolution, but it was too late. Hope had left him. He said, it was of no use. He had tried hard, but the power of temptation was too strong for him. He had no spirit to try again. That same night he left for a neighboring city, and the end is not yet.

Another boy was with us who had served with honor to himself in several important positions in our school, and was employed, after his time had expired, as a helper. He left us for the city, and being without employment and detected with having

burglarious instruments about his person, he was arrested, convicted, and sent to the State Prison for the term of nine months. These unfortunate results suggest the importance of removing the boy from his old associates and former haunts of vice. The salvation of this class of boys looks in the direction of country homes.

During the latter part of the year a very important improvement has been effected in the sanitary arrangements of the school. From the time we commenced in these buildings until quite recently, we have had to depend mainly upon a small well in the yard. The water from this well was found to furnish a supply totally inadequate for the purposes of the school; and its impurities occasioned Ophthalmic difficulties, but by your persevering exertions, proper waterworks have been constructed, by which water is conveyed from the lake. The supply of this needed element is now abundant. The effects of this change are very apparent as regards health and cleanliness.

I have had my heart often cheered, during the past year, by the visits and encouragements of friends from home and abroad. Among the friends from abroad we would mention the names of John W. Ketchum, Esq., Sup't of the N. Y. House of Reformation; A. F. Old, Agent of the Phil. House of Refuge; C. L. Brace, Sec. of Children's Aid Society, N. Y., and C. C. Tracy, Agent of C. A. S., N. Y.

We are also greatly indebted to the following clergymen from the city, for the kind tokens of sympathy which they have manifested towards the school by their visits and addresses during the year: Rev'ds Rice, Patton, Noyes and King.

We are indebted to His Honor John C. Haines, Mayor of Chicago, for the warm regard he has manifested toward the school, by visits and words of encouragement and sympathy.

N. S. Bouton, Sup't of Public Works, and Samuel D. Ward, City Comptroller, will accept our grateful acknowledgments for the prompt manner with which they have responded to our calls.

The Universalist Society of West Chicago, in a pic-nic which they had near the Reform School grounds, extended to our school a very cordial invitation to participate with them in the festivities of the occasion, for which tokens of encouragement they will accept our warmest thanks.

We also received a bountiful supply of cakes and confectionery from the North Presbyterian Society, for which we return our acknowledgments.

During the year which is past we have been greatly relieved and encouraged by the repeated visits of our city friends, who have assisted us in our Sabbath afternoon exercises, among whom we cannot omit the names of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Smith, Ward, Throop and Gray, of the Board, and Messrs. G. L. Brown, Wilder, E. S. Warner, L. Holbrook, N. S. Bouton, Sup't Public Works, Henry Smith, Local Editor of the Press and Tribune, and J. H. Thompson, Esq.

The above gentlemen, and all others who have made donations to the school which are acknowledged in table XIII.; and our friends generally who, in words or in actions, have shown their interest in the school, will accept our kindest regards for their tokens of sympathy and encouragement. May the day soon come when they shall see that these tokens have not been without their fruits.

Mr. Wheeler, at his own request, having been recently transferred from the school department to the position of Farmer, his place has been supplied by Mr. P. Atkinson, whose report is herewith presented, which will give you the requisite information as regards the educational condition of the school.

Until quite recently, all our boys were under the instruction of a single teacher, but the large increase of our numbers has compelled us to employ a female as an assistant.

We have now made a division of the school, having the small boys attend school in the morning, while they are in the workshops in the afternoon. The larger boys attend school in the afternoon, and devote the forenoon to manual labor. We look forward with hopefulness to our present arrangement.

Our workshops are in a prosperous condition. The shoe shop has been in operation only a portion of the year. The boys working in this department are making commendable progress. For an account of the labor performed by the inmates of the school the past year, you are referred to table XIV. for information.

We certainly have devout cause for thankfulness, for the excellent health with which a kind providence has blessed us

during the year. For a full account of the health of the school, you are referred to the accompanying Report of the Physician.

Since the issuing of my last Report, the school has lost one of its earliest friends, Mr. C. H. Pierce, who died in Boston, in great peace, on the 29th of last June. When the school was in its infancy, without a library, Mr. Pierce made a most unexpected and generous donation of 800 volumes of books for the boys' library, which has since been called the Pierce Library of the Chicago Reform School, by the order of your Board. Though this good man has been called away, to meet a glorious reward, he yet lives in the memories of many a grateful heart, for the care he manifested for the moral training of the wayward. Well hath the word of God declared of those who live to do good, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Now, gentlemen, permit me in the conclusion of this Report, to congratulate you on the success which has crowned our enterprise during the past year. We opened the year with every kind of disadvantage. Want of accommodation, poorly supplied with water, deficient in help, scanty hospital accommodations, and yet the numbers constantly increasing. But by the blessing of God, one difficulty after another has been overcome, until the close of the year finds us in circumstances of comfort and prosperity. The dark clouds of the past are yielding to the light of the future. I think of the past with gratitude to God for his deliverance and support. As I look upon the comely edifice now being erected, which your perseverance has given us, I cannot but reflect upon the fact that but three years since, seven boys, covered with rags and shame, filed along the gloomy corridors of the City Prison. With these a new enterprise was to be inaugurated. With these we were to test the power of Christian kindness. We shall never forget that first company of boys—the old Poor House—the Cleaver Packing House, and the first comfortable buildings. The past is written upon the pages of memory. May we not hope for a glorious future? Why may we not expect it as long as men so disinterested shall be called to look after its welfare? I have seen continued evidence during the past year of your attachment to the noble work which has

called forth your exertions; I have seen it in the forbearance you have exercised towards me in your sympathising looks and words of encouragement. I have seen it in your weekly gatherings to consult in reference to our welfare, regardless of your own pressing business arrangements.

Permit me, then, gentlemen, to return you my thanks for your kindness and sympathy to me and to my family, and for the interest you have manifested in this good work of reform.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. B. NICHOLS, *Sup't C. R. S.*

## TEACHER'S REPORT.

*To the Superintendent of the Chicago Reform School.*

SIR,—Having but very recently taken charge of the School Department of this Institution, it will hardly be expected that I shall be able to give a full and accurate account of its condition, yet I shall endeavor, in accordance with the usual custom, to present such facts as I have been enabled to collect from personal observation, and other sources, in the limited time allotted me to prepare this Report:

### TABLE XVII.

Shows the attainments of the 120 received during the year.

IN READING	
Ignorant of the alphabet.....	18
Could spell easy words.....	17
Could read easy sentences.....	43
Could read books generally.....	42
	<hr/>
	120
IN WRITING.	
Could not write.....	78
Could write only their names.....	26
Could write sentences generally.....	16
	<hr/>
	120
IN ARITHMETIC.	
Had never studied arithmetic.....	76
Had studied primary arithmetic.....	26
Had studied advanced arithmetic, to subtraction.....	2
Had studied advanced arithmetic, to multiplication.....	1
Had studied advanced arithmetic, to division.....	6
Had studied advanced arithmetic, to fractions.....	8
Had completed arithmetic.....	1
	<hr/>
	120

## IN GEOGRAPHY.

Had never studied geography.....	94
Had studied primary geography.....	15
Had studied advanced geography.....	11

120

## IN GRAMMAR.

Had never studied English grammar.....	118
Had studied primary English grammar.....	2

120

## TABLE XVIII.

Shows the present attainments of the 168 now connected with the school:

## IN READING.

Ignorant of the alphabet.....	5
Can read in the Primer.....	27
Can read in the 1st Reader.....	27
Can read in the 2d Reader.....	22
Can read in the 3d Reader.....	22
Can read in the 4th Reader.....	36
Can read in the 5th Reader.....	29

168

## IN WRITING.

Cannot write.....	78
Can write only their names.....	33
Can write sentences generally.....	57

168

## IN ARITHMETIC.

Have never studied arithmetic.....	89
Have studied primary arithmetic.....	41
Have studied advanced arithmetic, to subtraction.....	4
Have studied advanced arithmetic, to multiplication.....	5
Have studied advanced arithmetic, to division.....	16
Have studied advanced arithmetic, to fractions.....	13
Have completed arithmetic.....	0

168

## IN GEOGRAPHY.

Have never studied geography.....	87
Have studied primary geography.....	43
Have studied advanced geography.....	38

168

## IN GRAMMAR.

Have never studied English grammar.....	162
Have studied primary English grammar.....	6

168

The great work of the teacher, in an institution of this kind, is evidently not the mere imparting of instruction in certain branches of study, but the moral elevation of those placed under his care; he should therefore embrace every opportunity to cultivate in them a taste for intellectual pursuits, and thus call off their attention from that which is low, degrading and vicious.

Such, I trust, has been the aim of those who have heretofore had charge of this department, and it shall be my earnest endeavor, with the help of Divine Providence, to carry forward the work thus begun.

As the peculiarity of its government may be considered the distinguishing feature of this institution, it will perhaps be expected that I shall say something on this point.

In regard to corporal punishment, which, it is well known, is entirely dispensed with in this school, I think I may safely say that, whatever may be thought of its utility in certain cases in ordinary schools, the fact seems demonstrated here that it is not adapted to that class of youth for which institutions of this kind are designed.

Those who have been long accustomed to harshness and abuse become so habituated to it that punishments, which partake of that character, cease to have any influence over them; and it is only by the power of love, winning and subduing their hearts, that they can be brought to yield to wholesome restraint.

In proof of this I adduce the signal success with which this institution has met during the three years of its existence. With this fact before us, I trust it will no longer be regarded as a merely poetical idea, that gentleness and kind words have more power than harshness and blows, but as an incontestible fact, of which this institution is a standing evidence.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that in assuming the duties and responsibilities which the position assigned me imposes, I feel that I have undertaken a difficult and arduous work; yet, if I can be the means, in connection with those associated with me, of lifting up the fallen and degraded, and saving some, at least, of the youth of this city from a life of misery and crime, it will be to me a rich and ample reward.

P. ATKINSON,  
*Teacher.*



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

*To the Board of Guardians of the Chicago Reform School.*

GENTLEMEN:—I take pleasure in submitting my Third Annual Report as Physician of the Chicago Reform School.

I have the gratifying intelligence to announce that, of the large number of inmates of the school, but one death has occurred since my last annual report. This was a lad named Geo. Kinney, aged nine years. He died of organic disease of the heart, with which he was suffering when admitted into the school.

During the past winter, four cases of small-pox occurred. In these, as we deem necessary in all self-limited diseases, the expectant course of treatment was pursued, and their recovery was without accident. As a prophylactic to the spread of the disease, I took the precaution to vaccinate every boy not already pitted. In a large number of the cases thus vaccinated, the virus worked admirably, thus proving that all such cases were liable to take on varioloid or small-pox whenever exposed to the contagion. But after the vaccination, no new cases of small-pox or varioloid presented in the school. During the winter, also, several cases of scarlet fever occurred; some of these quite severe, but all terminated favorably.

During the early part of spring I had a large and *increasing* number of ophthalmic (sore eye) cases. This has been the most troublesome disease with which the boys have been afflicted. And it is not to be wondered at, when we reflect upon the material there collected for engendering such diseases, made up, as it is, of those reduced by want, negligence, exposure and vice, to a low and deteriorated physical condition.

To arrest the spread of this disease a careful examination of every boy was made, and those needing treatment were separated from others and committed to the hospital, where, by cleanliness, warmth, correct dieting and careful medication, these cases soon recovered, and were then permitted, one after another, to go out and mingle with the other boys. This disease, ever since the establishment of the school, has been a formidable one, and heretofore I have felt, under the existing circumstances, my inability

to correct the evil, from the fact that the means were limited. The sleeping apartments were insufficient to accommodate the large number of boys; the hospital was too small to accommodate one-quarter of the cases requiring treatment, and the water was insufficient in quantity and very inferior in quality. And here I cannot speak too highly of the generous conduct of the Board, in the great improvements you have so liberally made, in enlarging the hospital and sleeping department, in improving the character of the beds and board; and finally, in the supply, at much expense and skill, of an abundance of pure fresh water from the lake. Since these improvements have been made, I can safely say that the change in the health and general appearance of the boys has been marked.

During the past summer and present fall, thus far, there has been very little sickness. Two cases of typhoid fever have occurred, but with favorable termination. Since the general improvements in the establishment, not one-half the amount of sickness has occurred in the school, although the number of the boys has been greatly enlarged.

Under the present Board of Managers, and the improvements now in operation, securing, as I hope, for a long time to the school, the present able, faithful and devoted Superintendent, I can but speak for the Chicago Reform School a proud future, and regard it as an institution destined to regenerate and raise to position and influence, multitudes of the otherwise neglected, destitute and degraded.

Respectfully submitted.

J. P. ROSS, M. D.

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